

Dear Reader,

This Newsletter is intended for all SPS members, researchers, industries, students, interested specialists and physics friends. Feel free to share this Newsletter within your community, and follow this [link](#) if you want to add a person to our mailing list.

If you wish to give your contribution with news or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: margherita.boselli@cern.ch

Kind regards,

Margherita Boselli

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

Another Successful Annual Meeting

From 9 to 13 September 2024, the Campus Center of ETH Zurich hosted the **2024 SPS Annual Meeting**.

Once again, the Annual Meeting served as an occasion to bring together new and long-standing members of our Society and to stay up to date with the latest advancements in research in Switzerland. Our Society hopes to see even more research groups represented at this event in the future.



The meeting was opened by the President of ETHZ, Joel Mesot, who recalled the importance of the annual meeting where all Swiss professors should invite their students to present their talks and posters. His warnings about the severe cuts announced in all journals will end up affecting the funding of education and research budgets and in particular, more than anything else, basic research. This was followed by the Funding Session in Switzerland, which provided many tips on how to prepare applications for Innosuisse and ERC, as well as a complete portfolio of SNF projects.

This year's edition featured several engaging talks and hosted a number of special events. A symposium in honor of **Louis de Broglie** took place on Monday, followed by an excellent public lecture by Nobel Laureate **Anne L'Huillier** (Lund University, Sweden).

On Tuesday, the Annual Meeting held the third edition of the **Women in Physics Career Symposium**, offering an ideal opportunity for students and young researchers to network and receive career advice.

A special session celebrating **70 years of CERN's activity** was held on Tuesday evening. Finally, on Friday, the new **Energy and Sustainability Section** had its **inaugural meeting**.

As is tradition, the **SPS Prize award session** took place during the Annual Meeting. More information about the 2024 laureates will be available in the next issue of the SPS Journal.

All the contributions can be accessed in the [timetable section](#) of the event website.

Image: Gernot Scheerer presents "Physics in Advent" during the session on Education and Outreach organised by Prof. Andreas Müller.

2022-2024 report space research in Switzerland

The Swiss Committee on Space Research (CSR) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has published the [2022-2024 report on Swiss activities in the field of space research](#). This document was released in conjunction with the [45th Scientific Assembly of COSPAR](#) (Committee on Space Research), which took place this summer in Busan, South Korea.

The report summarizes Swiss space research projects carried out during the 2022-2024 period.

Image from SCNAT.



A new provost for the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology – Lausanne (EPFL)

The ETH Board has recently appointed the [members of EPFL's directorate](#), who will assume their roles on January 1st, 2025. Among them, **Professor Ambrogio Fasoli** has been named Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Professor Fasoli is



currently the CEO of EUROFusion, overseeing European fusion research. Previously, he served as Chair of the EUROFusion General Assembly and, until recently, was the Director of the Swiss Plasma Center and Associate Vice President for Research at EPFL. A professor of Physics at EPFL and a former member of the MIT Physics Faculty, Professor Fasoli brings extensive experience in managing academic institutions and international research programs, as well as a strong commitment to teaching, to his new role at EPFL.

He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of Academia Europaea and the Accademia dei Lincei.

Image: portrait of Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli, from EPFL.

The success of the Quantum Voucher Model

The Quantum Voucher Call, launched by the [Swiss Quantum Initiative](#), has been highly successful. A total of 90 applications for 127 [vouchers have been submitted](#). The vouchers are designed to promote collaboration among institutions and optimize the use of existing infrastructures and services in the field of quantum research. The applications cover a broad range of topics and will be assessed by an international evaluation committee. The results will be published in November.



Additionally, 13 projects have been approved under the [Swiss Quantum Call by the SNSF](#).

Image from SCNAT.

A Guinness World Record at the University of Geneva

A research group led by [Prof. Jean-Pierre Wolf](#), a professor in the Physics Department at the University of Geneva, and [Aurélien Houard](#), a researcher at the Institut Polytechnique in Paris, has achieved a groundbreaking result: they successfully used a laser to divert the trajectory of lightning.



Their findings, published in [Nature Photonics in 2023](#), have now earned a place in the [Guinness World Records](#).

This achievement is the result of years of work and technological development, and it serves as a proof of concept for developing new solutions to protect critical infrastructure such as airports and power plants.

More information about this exciting work are available [here](#).

Image from UNIGE.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

Nature Physics focus on Physics Education

A [Focus](#) published in Nature Physics in March 2024 provides an overview of the current state of physics education research and offers recommendations on how to improve learning environments at all levels of education. The aim of this interesting collection of articles is to highlight the importance of physics education and to encourage more publications in this area in the Nature journals.

The 2025 International Physicists' Tournament (IPT)

[The International Physicists' Tournament \(IPT\)](#) has unveiled the **new set of open-ended problems** for its 2025 edition. These challenges are crafted to spark in-depth discussions, encouraging participants to explore each phenomenon from both theoretical and experimental perspectives, wherever feasible. The problem statements are intentionally flexible, allowing for a broad examination of all relevant parameters. Download the list [here](#) and dive into the physics of intriguing topics such as optical candles, bouncing honey, and chaotic laces in a washing machine.



The image is part of one of the 2025 IPT challenging problems.

The International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

In July 2024, the UN officially declared [2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology \(IYQ\)](#).

The year 2025 was chosen to mark the 100th anniversary of the development of quantum mechanics. The UN recommends that the IYQ serves as an opportunity to raise public awareness about the importance of quantum science.



Scientific institutions involved in the field are encouraged to organize as many activities as

possible in their regions. Activities, events, and resources from around the world will be collected and shared through the IYQ website.

Institutions worldwide are also invited to consider sponsoring the IYQ. More information is available [here](#).

Feel free to share this information and get involved!

IUPAP event during BSBF 2024

The [International Union of Pure and Applied Physics IUPAP](#) is organising one of the satellite meetings opening the [Big Science Business Forum 2024](#) (BSBF 2024) taking place in Trieste, Italy next week. The event, titled “*The role of Academia and Industry to inspire the next STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) generation*” will take place on Tuesday 1 October 2024. The aim is to explore the potential impact of research-industry collaboration to the development of a sustainable society.

Program and other details could be found on the [indico page](#). Online participation is possible via [videoconference link](#).

Space Debris and Sustainability Conference

From 2 to 4 December, the University of Hong Kong will host the **Space Sustainability Conference**. The event will bring together experts in space use, sustainability and technology to discuss the serious issue of Space Situational Awareness. The [EPFL Space Centre](#) is one of the institutes organising the conference.

To learn more about this event, visit the dedicated [website](#).



The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) unites persons interested in physics from university, schools, research, development and industry. The SPS promotes the scientific exchange of ideas in Switzerland and with its international environment.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage profile](#) | [About](#)

[Subscribe as new user](#)